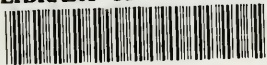


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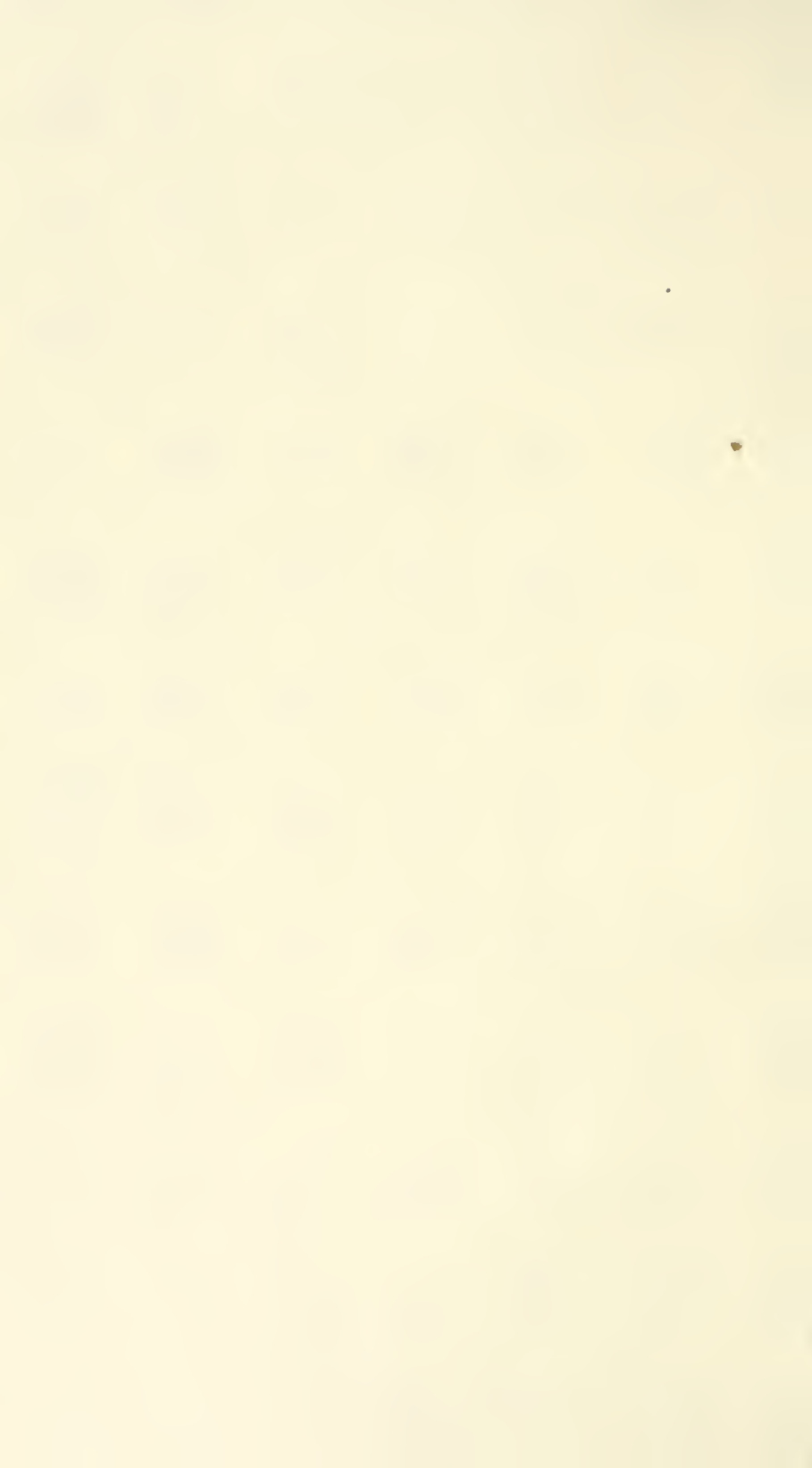


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COMMEMORATION OF BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH

HEARING

BEFORE A

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY UNITED STATES SENATE

SIXTY-THIRD CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 3662

A BILL TO PROMOTE THE ERECTION OF A MEMORIAL IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH DURING THE YEAR 1914, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF MACDONOUGH'S VICTORY IN THE NAVAL BATTLE FOUGHT IN THE WAR OF 1812, THE LAST NAVAL ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1914

Printed for the use of the Committee on the Library

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1914

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COMMEMORATION OF BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1914.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY,
Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met at 10.45 o'clock a. m., pursuant to the call of
• the chairman.

Present: Senator Lea (chairman).

Also present: Hon. William P. Dillingham, United States Senator from Vermont; Hon. Carroll S. Page, United States Senator from Vermont; Hon. Frank L. Greene, a Representative in Congress from the State of Vermont; Hon. Peter G. Ten Eyck, a Representative in Congress from the State of New York; Mr. Francis Lynde Stetson, 15 Broad Street, New York City, chairman Plattsburgh Centenary Commission; ex-Lieut. Gov. Thomas F. Conway, 32 Nassau Street, New York City, vice chairman Plattsburgh Centenary Commission; Salvatore A. Cotillo, 273 Pleasant Avenue, New York City, member Plattsburgh Centenary Commission; John Dorst, jr., Akron, Erie County, N. Y., member Plattsburgh Centenary Commission; Joseph S. Esquirol, 25 Crooke Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., member Plattsburgh Centenary Commission; Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C., member Plattsburgh Centenary Commission; Very Rev. John P. Chidwick, D. D., St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, N. Y., president of the Catholic Summer School of America, member of Plattsburgh Centenary Commission; Henry W. Hill, 471 Linwood Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y., member Plattsburgh Centenary Commission; Howard D. Hadley, assistant secretary Plattsburgh Centenary Commission; Plattsburgh, N. Y., also representing Trades and Labor Assembly of Plattsburgh; Jay A. Freeman, Plattsburgh, N. Y., president chamber of commerce; W. H. Goff, mayor of Plattsburgh, N. Y.; W. E. Parkhurst, ex-president chamber of commerce, Plattsburgh, N. Y.; Edwin G. Moore, president Young Men's Christian Association, Plattsburgh, N. Y.; Elmer F. Botsford, president Clinton County Agricultural Society, Plattsburgh, N. Y.; George W. Stone, president Vermont-Macdonough Memorial Commission, Vergennes, Vt.; John Donnelly, Vergennes, Vt.; Rev. L. A. Vezina, president board of trade, Vergennes, Vt.; Millard F. Barnes, Chimney Point, Vt.; Col. Charles D. Booth, Washington, D. C.; Henry K. Averill, Washington, D. C.; Henry A. Macomb, Philadelphia, Pa., grandson of Gen. Alexander Macomb, commander of American land troops at Plattsburgh Battle; Charles A. Murray, New York City, secretary Catholic Summer School of America; Charles A. Barnard, city

judge, Plattsburgh, N. Y.; Senator Robert W. McCuen, Vergennes, Vt., secretary Vermont-Macdonough Commission; Ira A. Rowson, Plattsburgh, N. Y.; John S. McDowell, Plattsburgh, N. Y.; Frank K. Ryan, Plattsburgh, N. Y.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee has assembled this morning for the purpose of considering Senate bill No. 3662, which is as follows:

[S. 3662, Sixty-third Congress, second session.]

A BILL To provide the erection of a memorial in conjunction with the celebration of the centenary of the Battle of Plattsburgh, during the year 1914, in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of Macdonough's victory in the naval battle fought in the War of 1812, the last naval engagement between English-speaking peoples.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000 toward the erection of a memorial in commemoration of the victory of Commodore Thomas Macdonough on Lake Champlain and in aid of the celebration of the centenary of the Battle of Plattsburgh, to be held during the year 1914 at Plattsburgh, N. Y., the same to be disbursed by the centenary commission appointed by the State of New York.

SEC. 2. That the President is hereby authorized to appoint three citizens of the United States as commissioners of the said centenary celebration, who shall serve without pay, but who shall be reimbursed and paid out of the money herein appropriated for their actual and necessary expenses in attending their official duties, of whom one shall be chosen from the Army and one from the Navy, to represent the National Government in the proposed celebration and in the erection of the proposed memorial in conjunction with the commissioners representing the State of New York.

SEC. 3. That the making of the appropriation provided for in section 1 of this act shall in no way operate, by implication or otherwise, to require the United States to incur any further debt or obligation in connection with the erection of such memorial or in connection with said centenary celebration.

SEC. 4. That the money appropriated by this act shall be paid out on the order of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States from time to time to the treasurer of the organization engaged in the erection of said monument and in promoting and holding the said centenary celebration, and, on said secretary being satisfied, the money appropriated will be disbursed for the objects, uses, and purposes expressed in section 1 of this act: *Provided*, That no part of the sum hereby appropriated shall be available for the said centenary celebration of said Battle of Plattsburgh until the United States commissioners are satisfied that a sufficient sum has been appropriated by the State of New York for that purpose, including the amount hereby appropriated, for the completion of said memorial.

Senator DILLINGHAM. have you anyone you care to present to the committee?

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM P. DILLINGHAM, A UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT.

Senator DILLINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, this movement was inaugurated in the State of New York, and the bill which is before you recognizes the New York scheme. Vermont simply asks to be let into it, and in an informal conference had this morning between the Vermont representatives here and the New York representatives, I think they have come to a full agreement as to the terms on which they shall come in. There is a perfect sentiment of mutuality between the two States. The fact that this battle originated in both States equally allots our claims, although Vermont's claims are not as great as what New York asks for in the bill. I think the New York delegation want to present to the committee in concise form the

scheme, the origin of it and the importance of it, and what they hope to accomplish, and when that is done the Vermonters will be very glad to speak their part in the matter, their interest in the matter. I doubt not that the two committees will be able to suggest to the committee any amendment they may like to add to the measure. I suggest that the New York delegation would like to present the claims of New York to the committee so that Congress may have the benefit of the information they have gathered.

The CHAIRMAN. We will be very glad indeed to hear any representative of either or both States. I regret that all the members of the subcommittee are not able to be here this morning, but we have an official reporter so that the hearing will be laid before not only the subcommittee but the full committee. I will have to ask that the hearing be limited to one hour, as I have an engagement which I will be obliged to meet at 12 o'clock.

Mr. STETSON. Assistant Secretary Roosevelt will be the first speaker.

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. Mr. Chairman, I appear here in a dual capacity; in fact, a triple capacity. I happen to be the person in the Senate of the State of New York who introduced the original resolution calling for the appointment of a committee of the senate and house of the State to make a report on the advisability of celebrating the centenary of the Battles of Lake Champlain, meaning by that the naval battle on the Lake and also the land battle which went on 2 miles away, simultaneously. That committee reported in favor of a celebration on a national scale, and as a result a commission has been appointed in the State of New York and it has hoped at this session of the legislature to obtain an appropriation of \$125,000 for that celebration from the State of New York. I think, from information I have, that there is absolutely no question but that it will go through the legislature and will be signed by the governor.

I also appear here—and I think I can properly—as a representative of the Navy Department, to state to the committee that the celebration of that battle is of real interest to that branch of the service. Every naval officer, every person who has been connected with the Navy, is interested in the Battle of Lake Champlain. They are particularly interested in it because of the fact that it is conceded by all naval historians—in fact, by all historians of every kind. I think—that the Battle of Lake Champlain, the naval battle of Lake Champlain, was probably the greatest feat of arms that our Navy achieved in the War of 1812. We have all heard, of course, a great deal about the Battle of Lake Erie, and I do not for a moment want to discredit the plaudits which Perry and his officers received in that battle, but I think it is fair to state that perhaps the reason why the American people to-day do not know as much about the Battle of Lake Champlain as they do about the Battle of Lake Erie is because of several very self-evident reasons. The first is that the Battle of Lake Erie contains several picturesque features, such as the moving of the American commander from his own ship after it was in a sinking condition, practically, to another ship in a small boat. Another

reason is that that battle was the first victory that we ever obtained over Great Britain in that war in which a fleet was engaged on both sides. The second battle in which two fleets were engaged was the Battle of Lake Champlain, but it came after the first battle, and did not get perhaps the same applause as if it had been the first.

I drew the parallel last night in talking to Gov. Conway as to what would have happened to this country in 1898 if the Battle of Santiago had been fought on May 1 and the Battle of Manila Bay had been fought July 3. The chances are that the Battle of Santiago would have aroused the American people to the same pitch of excitement that the Battle of Manila Bay did. Probably the relations of the two battles would have been exactly changed. The importance of the Battle of Lake Champlain historically is, of course, very great. It is more important historically than the Battle of Lake Erie. I think that is conceded by all. In our War of 1812, as in the Revolution, the weakness of the United States from the military point of view was the line of cleavage running down from Lake Champlain and Lake George to the headwaters of the Hudson and then to New York. In the Revolution, Burgoyne attempted to effect the cleavage right down through the center of the country. New York was in the possession of the British and Burgoyne was luckily stopped only a few miles before the British fleet, which had sailed up the Hudson. Again, in 1814, a definite attempt was made by the British to force that same line of cleavage. It is a historical fact that when the news of the Battle of Lake Champlain reached England about the 1st of November, 1814, it had a distinct effect on the British attitude toward a termination of the war. The commissioners were about to meet. If the British troops had obtained a victory on the land at Plattsburgh and the British fleet had been victorious, the British and the Canadians would have had access to Lake Champlain, Lake George, and the upper waters of the Hudson. The treaty of peace would probably have been far more difficult to secure if they had won. I hope very much that the committee will see fit to make this a national celebration. It should be a national celebration. Two States at least are intimately connected with it, but more than that, every State in the Union at that time was intimately connected with it, because it brought very largely to a close our last war with Great Britain. I believe that the expenditure of this money by Congress could not be considered a wasteful or extravagant act. To my mind that kind of expenditure does a vast amount of good all through the country.

STATEMENT OF MR. FRANCIS LYNDE STETSON, CHAIRMAN PLATTSBURGH CENTENARY COMMISSION.

MR. STETSON. Mr. Chairman, as chairman of the Plattsburgh Centenary Commission it becomes my duty to make a few remarks to you in behalf of the bill before the committee. We are here appealing to the patriotic sons of the entire country to commemorate an event which is of national importance, and certainly the chairman of this committee—coming from the State which furnished the hero and the man who fought the next battle after this, New Orleans, which I trust also will be appropriately commemorated—should be interested. There we will celebrate the event and the man, but we

will not celebrate the consummation of that event, because this was after the declaration of peace and after the treaty of peace was signed, but not known, because of the lack of speedy communication between England and America. The treaty of peace had been signed on Christmas eve, 1814, and the Battle of New Orleans was fought on the 8th of January, 1815, so those gallant lives were lost and that brilliant achievement made to the imperishable glory of the American people but without immediate consequence upon the events of the war between the two countries. That had already been decided. And what had decided it? This Battle of Plattsburgh, not the Battle of Lake Erie, because the war had continued for one year and three months after the Battle of Lake Erie. It was decided by the Battle of Plattsburgh, and for proof of that I appeal to the correspondence between Lord Bathurst and Lord Castlehurst, in which Lord Bathurst distinctly said that their plans had been entirely changed by those methods.

Now, what were those plans? It is not generally understood or known that that was in our moment of weakness. Our war had, up to that time, with the exception of a few individual acts of bravery, been one that was full of causes of mortification to our Nation, and our weakness had been shown at a time when England was weak, but now the revelation of that weakness was a great risk, because England had become strong. With the unexpected termination of the Napoleonic wars and the destruction of Napoleonic supremacy through the battles of Leipzig and Dresden in 1813, the English forces had been released, and they were prepared to continue the course they had already begun of sending their army to this country, and so confident were they at that time that now they must succeed completely in overcoming the United States that they were already engaged in arranging the terms of peace and the conditions of peace, and those conditions were far enough known to be a matter of consideration in this country.

The serious consideration was this: The British Government considered itself under obligations to the Indians and Tecumseh and his associates who had rendered them great assistance and had rendered us great annoyance, incidentally electing William Henry Harrison President of the United States because of his victory over Tecumseh. Owing to that assistance the British people felt that they must do something for the Indians and incidentally something for themselves, and the combined purpose found its outlet in the project of creating what is now the State of Indiana, with portions of Illinois and Ohio, as a neutral State which should be set apart for the Indians and which should be under the control of the Indians. Now, that was what was threatening this country. We may laugh at it now, but then it was no laughing matter. It was then seriously under consideration.

Now, what was it that stopped that project? The thing that stopped it, as Lord Bathurst's correspondence shows, was this victory in that bay, which is shown in this picture that I have here. He writes that "while we were expecting everything it looks now, in view of this late unfortunate occurrence on Lake Champlain, that we shall obtain nothing." When the Duke of Wellington was appealed to for advice, he declared, that, upon the best information received, they were not able to make good their entry to that territory. Now,

that news reached England about the 15th of October and the treaty was signed on Christmas eve, and that thing was accomplished because of this battle. Therefore, as Admiral Mahan said, "this, more than any other, may be called the decisive battle of this war." There was no further naval engagement. There was an engagement the very next day at Baltimore, when the British troops, after burning the Capitol at Washington, went to Baltimore and made an attempt at Fort McHenry, which resulted in that glorious ode, our National anthem, Francis Scott Key's "Star Spangled Banner." If you take away the Star Spangled Banner there will not be much to celebrate of what happened in Baltimore. Still, he wrote the Nation's song, and it is worth it. All that it cost and all that you choose to give to Baltimore is properly given in recognition of that patriotic spirit which stimulates American character wherever it goes.

Now, I have endeavored briefly to show the importance of the event. I would like now to call your attention to the thrilling character of the scene itself. It appeals to me, because I was born there and my grandfather fought in that battle. I knew many of its survivors. Here on this map you will find the historic bay; here is the Saranac River entering the bay. This [indicating] is sometimes called Plattsburgh Bay, but generally Cumberland Bay. At that time the little town of Plattsburgh had a population of about 2,500, whereas it now has a population of 10,000. The frontier may be represented by the top of the map. Sir George Prevost, with 13,000 of Wellington's veterans, had arrived in July or August and proceeded up the St. Lawrence River to Quebec, and then marched down these two roads, down to what is known as Dead Creek. They came in two battalions. This battle was fought on Sunday, September 11. Five days before that, one column of Prevost's army, upon the 6th of September, had reached Culvers Hill. The other column was marching down at the left. Reaching there they were resisted. They were in charge of Lieut. Col. Willington, who was a cousin of the Duke of Wellington. They were resisted by a group of our people, our ancestors, in arms.

Five days before the battle Gen. Ralph Izard, against his protest, had been sent away with 10,000 troops to Oswego, leaving a few thousand men under the gallant Macomb, whose grandson is here to-day, to stand against these 13,000 troops of Prevost. They were rallied and added to by the general accessions of the country people back of the lake and from the south until there were about 5,000 or 6,000 coming to meet the advance. Gen. John Wool, whom I knew to be one of the bravest of our men, was then a captain in charge of another column. They resisted the advance of the troops under Lieut. Col. Willington, and he was killed, and they fell back to Halseys Corner, where they made another stand, and then again fell back. Here [indicating on map] they made another stand, where Gen. Brown had erected three forts, and there, Prevost not finding the support from his fleet as yet, they rested. In the subsequent endeavor to cross the river there was such a controversy that that river has ever since been known as the Bloody Saranac, because it was dyed with the blood of the people who perished there.

Now, we pass to what has happened. In the summer of 1813 Lieut. Averill, having taken two of the vessels that Macdonough had provided, went down to Annanoo, and there suffered a repulse, and

his two boats were lost, captured by the British. One of them, the largest, which formed a part of the fleet, was commanded by Capt. Downie. He proceeded up the lake, and at 9 o'clock on Sunday, September 11, 1814, rounded Cumberland Head and came to where you see the red ships on this map. There is present this most admirable gentleman, Mr. Averill, whose father was mentioned in the resolution thanking those gentlemen for their part of the battle, and giving the gun that had been captured by Gen. Macomb to one whose name is one of the most distinguished in the State of New York, A. C. Platt. I called on him in 1867, when I came to New York, and he was blind, and he said, "Stetson, I wonder if you are as good a Democrat as your grandfather was." I said, "You mean my father." He said, "No; your grandfather; they have all been good Democrats." And that is true to the present time.

So, he rounded here on this morning at 9 o'clock, and there he found Macdonough's fleet waiting for him. Now, Col. Roosevelt has well pointed out—I mean Col. Theodore Roosevelt in his history of the War of 1812, not the present Assistant Secretary of the Navy—that this was a battle in which an inferior force prevailed against a superior force, not as in Lake Erie—and I would not withdraw one of the laurels from the hero of Lake Erie—where the conditions were reversed. Macdonough had 14 vessels against 16; 86 guns against 95; 882 men against 1,000. He also had the disadvantage of the elements. The wind was then blowing from the west and as he lay there he could not retreat, he could not draw back toward the shore; he would have had to beat against the enemy's face to do it, whereas, the British could withdraw at any moment with a favorable wind, if they saw fit. He had this other disadvantage that if he moved to that western shore, Prevost's army and batteries being on the heights there, his fleet would be driven under the fire of the land batteries of the British. Indeed, I might say that this was one of the causes for which court-martial proceedings were instituted against Prevost when he returned to England, because he had not shelled Macdonough's fleet from the shore, the question being whether the army was within the range of the guns. Prevost died while the court-martial was pending and so nothing ever came from it.

Immediately as they came in range Macdonough opened fire on Downie. Downie did nothing until he had come near Macdonough, when he opened fire from his ship, the *Confiance*, on the *Saratoga*, and at the first fire he almost blew the *Saratoga* out of the water, destroying 40 of its men in that first fire. Before the battle had lasted 10 minutes Macdonough had been knocked senseless—now, I am talking about the man—by the shattering of the spanker boom which had struck against his head and knocked him senseless to the deck, but it did not knock him out. He arose and resumed the fight and again he was knocked senseless. The head of his gun was blown off and struck him and knocked him down senseless. Did he give up then? No. He resumed the fight. There is nowhere in the annals of war a hero such as he. As McMaster said in his history, "Now was the time for surrender." His whole ship was exposed on that side, without the possibility of return. The last gun had been broken and turned over into the hold.

We have had bravery. Now for foresight. He had arranged what we call springs to a kedge anchor, which was thrown out here [indicating]. He gave the signal and the ship was turned and the other battery was brought to bear on the *Confiance* and he nearly blew her out of the water. Downie was killed and they hauled down the flag. The *Linnet* and the other ships dropped their flags and the battle was over. Prevost saw what had happened there and he surrendered.

That man was a hero, one of the greatest sea captains of his time, and, as Col. Roosevelt, Capt. Mahan, and Mr. McMaster all say, the greatest figure in our naval history until our Civil War.

Now, I would like to know if that is not something that should be lodged in the minds, in the affection, and in the memory of the American people? We have asked our legislature for \$125,000. I have here letters from the governor of the State, the speaker of the assembly, the president of the senate, and the leaders in both houses, all asking that this be done. The National Government appropriated \$250,000 for the Perry victory celebration. We feel that the States of Vermont and New York, both of whom unite here in presenting this cause, may properly ask for the same amount. How will we use this? Well, in part only for the celebration. We would be glad to have the whole of Congress come over, and we think it would be none too little for the Congress of the United States to take advantage of the opportunity and, either in a body or by its representatives, come to the celebration. I trust the chairman will be one, because we entertained him in New York for four years. I trust you will all be there, and I hope the celebration will be as much of a success as was the tercentenary of the Battle of Lake Erie three years ago.

We think that where the head of the Cumberland Lighthouse is now there should be a big lighthouse, such as will be at Crown Point, where France will erect the monument "La France." We feel that a monument should be placed right at the site of the engagement. On the other side, right at the mouth of the river, there is a beautiful site which is appropriate for the purpose, and there, we think, the State of New York and the Federal Government should unite in building a monument to the combined service, the Army and the Navy, embracing a recognition of the efforts, if not the achievements, of the army under Gen. Macomb, who did all they could for their country. They did their duty as well as they possibly could. They had a few thousand volunteers compared with the regulars of Wellington's.

Our friends in Vermont very properly ask that there should be recognition given them, because Macdonough's fleet was built on Otter Creek near Vergennes. Vergennes was a city before there was any other city in that section. It was named after Benjamin Franklin's friend Vergennes. I remember the story that was passed on the streets. One day a fellow said, "Why is Vergennes a city?" And the all-wise fellow said, "You know that under the Constitution of the United States every State is entitled to one city, and Vermont built Vergennes." Burlington is queen city of Vermont, but Vergennes is the main city. It has the advantage of being the site of this victory, and that is their claim for recognition.

The CHAIRMAN. We are very much indebted to you, Mr. Stetson.

Mr. STETSON. I would like to present to you this little pamphlet which embodies the story of the battle of Plattsburgh in concrete form.

Senator DILLINGHAM. I suppose those letters should go in the record as a part of your address.

Mr. STETSON. This is the official pamphlet of the centenary commission.

Senator DILLINGHAM. I was referring to the letters from the governor of the State and various officials that you mentioned.

Mr. STETSON. Well, I think they are all addressed to Senator O'Gorman and not to me. If he feels that they should go in the record, I am entirely willing to put them in.

(The pamphlet referred to is as follows:)

THE BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH—WHY ITS CENTENNIAL IS TO BE CELEBRATED.

Upon Sunday, September 11, 1814, at 20 minutes past 11 o'clock in the forenoon, the United States of America became established as a world power. Among the events which compelled such recognition none is more important than the decisive naval victory won by Commodore Thomas Macdonough on that fateful day, on the waters of beautiful Champlain, at Plattsburgh.

No other naval battle in our history has had a more profound effect upon our country's destiny. The influence since exercised by America in the world's progress in large measure may be traced to it.

The heroism and sacrifices signalized then and also often during our struggle for independence, as well as in later days, served to show to mankind what could be achieved by the individual inspired by patriotism and struggling to establish human rights as conceived by the forefathers of this Republic.

Great as were the victories won by American heroes in previous naval engagements they fell short of the decisive importance which history has awarded to the final and complete victory that settled forever the momentous conflict in the Western Hemisphere.

This crowning achievement of our Navy was accomplished by Macdonough. Thereafter the supremacy of democracy and the progress of its ideals and purposes in our country were never again contested by any foreign power. Their influence, which has spread throughout the world, has become the leaven of progress everywhere in the struggle for human rights, and nations, at that time hostile to their existence, long since have come to recognize them as potent factors in their own national lives.

Thus we find warrant for the honor our Nation and the State of New York are about to pay to the memory of this devout Christian gentleman—this naval hero first distinguished at Tripoli, this zealous young patriot—who on September 11, 1814, near Valcour, where the British had won the first naval battle between fleets of English-speaking nations, led an American fleet to victory in the last naval battle between English-speaking nations.

Recalling the well-nigh insurmountable obstacles overcome by him in building and equipping his fleet, and his model report to his Government, we are impressed with his modesty and with the humility and reverence of his mind and also with the traits possessed by him in common with so many other great American patriots from Washington to Lincoln, an abiding trust in Almighty God, courage, resourcefulness, determination, generosity, and magnanimity of spirit.

At the close of the battle his message to the Secretary of the Navy was:

"Sir: The Almighty has been pleased to grant us a signal victory on Lake Champlain in the capture of one frigate, one brig, and two sloops of war of the enemy."

No boasting of what he or they had accomplished, although the building, equipping, and manning of an efficient fleet within eight months in a wilderness, was little short of a miracle.

Lake Erie showed the advantage of having the odds on our side; Lake Champlain, that skill, calm calculation, and preparedness can offset odds on the other side.

Perry's brilliant victory, September 10, 1813, snatched as if by magic from the jaws of defeat, was an achievement of high order which well merited its

patriotic celebration by State and Nation during the past year, and the splendid permanent memorial now being erected. Yet, important as it was, that victory did not end the war, but was followed by some of our most humiliating reverses.

Encouraged by her subsequent victories at different places, Great Britain planned an invasion from Canada, confident that its success would end the war in her favor and possibly would reestablish British rule in the United States.

In pursuance of this plan the British Army, outnumbering ours four to one, marched upon Plattsburgh, and a superior British fleet, cooperating with the land forces, came up the lake from the north. These in combination were to crush out all opposition by destroying the American fleet on Lake Champlain and by capturing or scattering our land forces in the Champlain Valley. Thereupon the British Army was to proceed up the Champlain and down the Hudson to New York City, which it was planned to capture in cooperation with another strong British fleet.

Macdonough's victory in Cumberland Bay, resulting in the destruction or capture of the entire British fleet, not only prevented the projected advance of the enemy, but caused the British Army to return to Canada to escape like disaster.

The event was decisive, and the treaty of peace was signed three months thereafter, on Christmas eve, 1814.

The same patriotic feeling that actuated the Nation in celebrating and commemorating the victory of Perry at Put in Bay impels it in equally impressive manner to celebrate and by a fitting memorial to perpetuate the victory of Macdonough at Plattsburgh.

Due recognition and honor for events and men great in our Nation's history attest and measure the greatness of the present. They supply inspiration and incentive for still nobler achievements.

No fitting expenditure can be deemed amiss which tends to stimulate patriotism and deep appreciation of worthy deeds which made possible the Nation's existence and gave nobility to its national life.

The Plattsburgh Centenary Commission has been appointed by the State of New York to "plan and conduct in the month of September, 1914, an appropriate public celebration of the centenary of the Battle of Plattsburgh." The battle was fought on September 11, 1814, and the centennial celebration will be held September 6 to 11, 1914.

THE BATTLE.

The Battle of Plattsburgh was fought both on the land and on the lake.

Prevost had a crack army of 14,000 veterans, while Macomb had comparatively a mere handful of men. It was the purpose of Prevost to aid Downie by a land attack simultaneous with that on the water.

The British fleet, which was superior to the American squadron, consisted of 16 vessels, carried 95 guns and had about 1,000 men. The American flotilla consisted of 14 vessels of all classes, carrying 86 guns, with 882 men. Fire was opened by the Americans. It was returned by the British *Confiance*, but not until after she had come to anchor about 300 yards from the American line. Her first broadside killed or wounded 40 men, one-fifth of the force of the *Saratoga*. The engagement then became general. In an hour the whole starboard battery of the *Saratoga* was disabled. However, owing to the masterly prevision of Macdonough, she was enabled to swing around and to bring her port guns to bear upon the *Confiance*. This vessel also suffered severely. She lost her commander, Downie, and struck her flag after two and a half hours' fighting. The remainder of the British force were either taken or put to flight.

The British loss was about 200, including prisoners; the American, killed and wounded, 112. The British lost all but 20 of the 95 guns they brought into action. Macdonough was twice knocked senseless.

ERIE, CHAMPLAIN, TRAFALGAR.

"But it will always be a source of surprise that the American public should have so glorified Perry's victory over an inferior foe and have paid comparatively little attention to Macdonough's victory against decided odds in ships, men, and metal. * * * Lake Erie teaches us the advantage of having the odds on our side; Lake Champlain, that, even if they are not, skill can still

counteract them." (Roosevelt in his "Naval War of 1812," describing the "Battle of Lake Erie.")

Comparison with the battle of Trafalgar is similarly interesting.

Lord Nelson's victory ended Napoleon's scheme for an invasion of England; Macdonough's victory ended the British scheme to regain her lost colonies by an invasion of New York and the cutting off of New England from the rest of the States. Nelson and Macdonough each fought a superior foe and each defeated his adversary with unsurpassed valor and courage.

Midshipman Lee, in a letter to his brother, after the Battle of Plattsburgh, said: "There is one of our marines who was in the Trafalgar engagement with Lord Nelson who says it was a mere flea bite in comparison with it."

OBJECT OF INVASION.

"From information received and corroborated by the movements of the enemy, there is sufficient grounds of belief that one great object of his campaign was to penetrate, with his northern army, by the waters of Lake Champlain and the Hudson, and, by simultaneous attack with his maritime force on New York, to form a junction which should sever the communication of the States." (Gov. Tompkins in his address to the New York Legislature Sept. 27, 1814.)

In his general orders on September 14, after alluding to the designs of Prevost (the British commander) Gen. Macomb said: "He brought with him a powerful army and flotilla—an army amounting to 14,000 men, completely equipped and accompanied by a numerous train of artillery, and all the engines of war—men who had conquered in France, Spain, Portugal, the Indies, and in various other parts of the globe, and led by the most experienced generals of the British army. A flotilla, also superior to ours, in vessels, men, and guns, had determined at once to crush us both by land and water."

"It was evident, notwithstanding that the release thereby of a large British army from service on the Continent would enable the common enemy to send an overwhelming force across the Atlantic that might crush the American armies and possibly reduce the States to British provinces; their hopes and the limit of their wishes doubtless were that the changed aspect of foreign affairs and the consciousness of the great peril that might reasonably be apprehended would cause the administration to seek peace on any terms. They were mistaken, as the sequel will show." (Lossing's description of the Federal party's actions in his introduction to the invasion of the northern frontier by the British in the War of 1812—"Field Book of the War of 1812." p. 855.)

THE BATTLE'S IMPORTANCE.

"This lake, which had hitherto played but an inconspicuous part, was now to become the scene of the greatest naval battle of the war." (Roosevelt in his "Naval War of 1812.")

"The gallant Macdonough, with a much smaller force in men and guns than his antagonist, had by his skillful dispositions and brave defense, won an important victory and completely disconcerted a deep-laid scheme of invasion." (Charles Morris in the "Great Republic," Vol. III, p. 45.)

"To view it in abstract, it is not surpassed by any naval victory on record. To appreciate its result, it is perhaps one of the most important events in the history of our country." (Secretary of Navy Jones to Hon. Charles Tate, chairman of the Naval Committee of the Senate, Oct. 3, 1814.)

"'Tis not alone the brilliancy of your victory in a naval view, but its importance and beneficial results that will fix the attention and command the gratitude of your admiring country." (Secretary of Navy Jones to Commander Macdonough, Sept. 19, 1814.)

"The country generally placed this victory by the side of that of Lake Erie. In the Navy, which is better qualified to enter into just estimates of force and all the other circumstances that enhance the merits of nautical exploits, the Battle of Plattsburgh Bay is justly ranked among the very highest of its claims to glory." (Cooper in his "History of the War of 1812.")

"Macdonough in this battle won a higher fame than any other commander of the war, British or American. He had a decidedly superior force to contend against, the officers and men of the two sides being about on a par in every respect; and it was solely owing to his foresight and resource that he won the victory." (Roosevelt in "Naval War of 1812.")

"With the repulse of the British at Plattsburgh ended the most important military operations on the northern frontier of New York. Peace came a few months later." (Lossing in Harper's Weekly, 1864.)

THE VICTORY DECISIVE.

"The Battle of Lake Champlain, more nearly than any other incident of the War of 1812, merits the word 'decisive'—decisive not merely in relation to immediate military results, but in relation to political questions involved in the pending negotiations for peace." (Capt. A. T. Mahan, U. S. N., in his "Sea Power in its Relations to the War of 1812.")

"As long as illustrious events shall be embodied in history, so long will the victory on Lake Champlain, obtained under your auspices, command the respect of mankind." (Mayor DeWitt Clinton, of New York, to Commodore Macdonough at a dinner given in the latter's honor some weeks after the battle.)

"The splendid triumph obtained by the squadron under your command over a superior British force has secured to you an imperishable name in the annals of the age. * * * At no period of the late eventful contest were consequences so important dependent upon the fate of battles. A numerous and well-appointed army of the enemy, composed of veteran troops, led by experienced generals, and flushed with recent conquests, penetrated our northern frontier, and by the aid of a formidable naval armament threatened to advance into the bosom of our State. The storm of war was collected in one cloud and its course directed to one point. In that awful moment of suspense every hope was fixed upon your efforts to avert its fury, and the most sanguine expectations of your country were more than realized. By a masterly position you compelled the hostile fleet to approach your moorings to certain disadvantage. By the precision of your fire, the promptness of your maneuvers, the discipline and spirit you had infused into your crews, and by your undaunted and deliberate valor, you gained a victory as signal, as decisive, and as important as any inscribed upon the naval pillar of your country. You captured and destroyed almost the whole of the adverse squadron—you compelled the invading army to retreat—you saved our territory from rapine, our border dwellings from pillage and destruction—their inhabitants from banishment, captivity, or death." (Assemblyman William A. Deur in an address to Commodore Macdonough at Hartford, Conn., Feb. 13, 1817, on the occasion of the presentation of a sword voted to him by the State of New York.)

"That the thanks of Congress be, and the same are hereby, presented to Capt. Thomas Macdonough, and through him to the officers, petty officers, seamen, marines, and infantry serving as marines attached to the squadron under his command for the decisive and splendid victory gained on Lake Champlain on the 11th of September, 1814 over a British squadron of superior force." (Portion of resolution expressive of the appreciation of Congress of the gallant conduct of Capt. Macdonough and his men, in awarding them gold and silver medals after the victory on Lake Champlain.)

"The fight in Plattsburgh Bay was undoubtedly the greatest naval battle of the war, and the victory stamped Macdonough as the ablest sea captain our country produced down to the Rebellion." (From "History of the People of the United States," by John Bach McMaster, Vol. IV., p. 68.)

A CELEBRATION FOR ALL.

The decisive result of this battle naturally and justly occasioned special rejoicing in the valley of Lake Champlain and in the Hudson Valley, thus relieved from war and from its horrid alarms. Naturally and justly, also, this result was of momentous consequence to the whole country, particularly the Middle West, for it quieted forever the pending proposal to carve a neutral State out of territory now including the State of Indiana.

In a larger and continuing significance the result also is justly an occasion for present general satisfaction on both sides. In the past year the Gettysburg semicentennial has brought to many on either side the vain regret that the decisive character of that titanic contest could not have been recognized without delay and further useless loss of life and blood. As prolongation of the unhappy War of 1812 would have brought neither joy nor glory, all may now rejoice that the Battle of Plattsburgh was of final importance, and that it was then so regarded by the peace commissioners.

The magnanimity of Macdonough toward the memory of the gallant Downie and his fallen comrades has governed the people of Plattsburgh who have honored and kept green their graves, annually including them within the tributes of Decoration Day.

Without, then, disparaging the valor of the forefathers who here "jeopardized their lives in the breach," everyone, everywhere, may rejoice over the Battle of Plattsburgh and its final contribution to a century, and it may be hoped to a millenium, of international peace.

PLATTSBURGH CENTENARY COMMISSION.

Francis Lynde Stetson, chairman. 15 Broad Street, New York City.

Thomas F. Conway, vice chairman. 32 Nassau Street, New York City.

James A. Foley, chairman executive committee, 261 Broadway, New York City.

Loren H. White, treasurer. Delanson, N. Y.

Charles J. Vert, secretary. Plattsburgh, N. Y.

Salvatore A. Cotillo, 273 Pleasant Avenue, New York City.

John Dorst, jr., Akron, Erie County, N. Y.

James A. Emerson, Warrensburg, N. Y.

Joseph H. Esquirol, 25 Crooke Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Irving I. Goldsmith, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

John F. Healy, New Rochelle, N. Y.

Henry Harmon Noble, Essex, Essex County, N. Y.

Alexander W. Fairbank, M. D., Chazy, N. Y.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Henry M. Sage, Menands, N. Y.

Rev. John P. Chidwick, D. D., St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, N. Y.

Henry W. Hill, 471 Linwood Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y.

Howard D. Hadley, assistant secretary, Plattsburgh, N. Y.

Senator DILLINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, we have a Vermont committee here this morning the head of which is the Rev. Father Vezina, of Vergennes.

Dr. VEZINA. I yield to Mr. Stone. He will speak for the Vermonsters.

STATEMENT OF MR. GEORGE W. STONE, PRESIDENT VERMONT-MACDONOUGH MEMORIAL COMMISSION, VERGENNES, VT.

Mr. STONE. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, Vermont and New York have been neighbors for a good many years. There never has been a time, perhaps, when the representation of Vermont and New York has felt more neighborly than this morning in the cause in which we are both interested. Vermont is a modest State, and perhaps the part we played in the Battle of Plattsburgh was a somewhat modest one. As Mr. Stetson has indicated, Macdonough's fleet was built on Vermont soil, of Vermont trees, cut in Vermont wilderness, the work of building it was done largely by Vermont workmen, and in the battle itself Vermont volunteers took an important part. We therefore are perhaps, in proportion of the size of the State as compared with New York, equally interested in the outcome of this bill that has been presented in the Senate and has come before this committee. The fleet was built at Vergennes on the Otter Creek, a name that we do not like very well, because it is the largest river in Vermont and worthy of a better name than "creek." But for historical reasons the name seems to have remained. The ships were built during the winter and with a great deal of dispatch and speed, and equipped with

guns and ammunition that was in large part manufactured at Vergennes. In the spring an attempt was made by the British to bottle up this fleet in the river somewhat in the way that a more recent bottling act was accomplished, at least with some success, although in this 1812 episode no success attended the efforts of the British, by reason of the brave resistance of Lieut. Cassin at the small fort at what was called Fort Cassin at the mouth of the river.

Briefly, the fleet emerged into Lake Champlain and the battle was fought as Mr. Stetson has indicated. As I indicated at the outset, Vermont is modest but we are enthusiastic. We heartily indorse the position that New York takes in the matter. We feel that Lake Champlain is altogether too little known among the present-day citizenship of the United States. It is astonishing, I think, to find how many people know so very little about Lake Champlain. Now, Lake Champlain is the largest lake that is entirely in the United States. It is probably the most beautiful lake in the United States, as it is without question the most historic lake in the country. We feel that fit recognition should be given to Lake Champlain, and for that reason, as well as the others that have been mentioned, Vermont stands by the side and in back of New York.

The CHAIRMAN. We will be glad to hear from anyone else, from New York or Vermont.

STATEMENT OF HON. THOMAS F. CONWAY, CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PLATTSBURGH CENTENARY COMMISSION.

Mr. CONWAY. Mr. Chairman, I perhaps ought not to intrude my views at this late moment, because the historic event that we all seek to celebrate has been so well described and its effects and results on our history have been so forcibly stated by the gentlemen who preceded me that I would not attempt to take a moment of your time except for the fact that what I have to say springs more from personal motives, although I am a member of this commission, and is largely prompted by the fact that the Champlain Valley was and is my home. I was there brought up. I believe there is not a nook, a corner, nor a portion of its history with which I am not familiar. Three or four years ago the early history of that locality in its colonial times was celebrated in a most impressive manner, and largely celebrated at the expense of our State, the State of New York. As the Chairman well knows, in colonial times the Champlain Valley was the contending point of differing civilizations, and the English form ultimately prevailed. Later it became the home of democracy.

Recognizing those facts, the State of New York appropriated some years ago the sum of \$125,000 to celebrate the events that took place there in colonial times, particularly on account of their great effect in developing our civilization in State and Nation later. The United States Government was not then appealed to to any great extent, but the sum of \$20,000 was contributed to pay the expenses of distinguished guests from Washington and abroad who honored us then with their presence, and our sister Republic of France took such an interest in the matter that she contributed that most magnificent work of art, La France.

Now we come to the point when something of modern importance, something of a more immediate effect upon our history, is needed.

We think, having stood the test of an analysis of 100 years of its effect not only upon York State but upon the history of the country, that the event should receive a fitting celebration and that there should be placed there a memorial that for all time will direct the mind of the youth of this country to an event of tremendous importance to the country, and to the courage and heroism there displayed. If I thought that this celebration meant simply a gathering of distinguished men and a week's exchange of views, I should not have devoted one hour of time to the matter; neither do I believe the distinguished chairman of the commission would have done so. But believing that it is of great importance, and believing that the time has come in our history, after a hundred years, when we should analyze and place events in positions of relative importance to our history and our future, we find that here was one at least that met every test.

There is not a historian of our country, there is not a man who knows the facts, that does not believe that the results of that engagement were among the most important in their effect upon our history. As the chairman has said, no one wants to disparage or minimize the great victory of Perry at Put in Bay. The State of New York, least of all, does not want to minimize it. But yet we can not forget the fact that historians have commented upon, that there the advantage in men, in arms, and in ships was all on our side. In Champlain they were all against us. That shows what valor and determination can accomplish even under adverse circumstances.

In connection with the victory of Macdonough there is a patriotic feeling that wells up in the hearts of everyone who thinks of it. Away back in the early days the first naval battle among English-speaking peoples took place within 3 miles of where Macdonough's victory took place. We were then defeated, but later on we reversed the situation. As I said before, New York State does not assume to minimize the Perry victory. Our State contributed to the celebration of that event in a fitting manner the sum of \$150,000 by act of legislature. That was appropriated for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of an event which did not take place within the borders of our State, but within the waters adjoining them.

Recognizing the importance of such a celebration and recognizing the importance of placing memorials of great historical events where they will be expressive of our national appreciation, we think we should participate in this celebration and make it a national celebration. The State of New York will generously aid in this celebration, and I say to you, Mr. Chairman, that if my section of the State was as rich in wealth or material things as it always has been in patriotic impulses and readiness to give, whether it be their blood or treasure, for public purposes, we would not be here, at least would not be here seeking aid from the National Government. We are largely an agricultural community. There are no large cities from which we can draw aid and assistance as we could in the Perry celebration, surrounded as it was by its wealth of resources. We are a farming population largely, and so is our sister State Vermont, to a large extent, and most of what we leave up there when we pass away is a reputation. The father leaves perhaps enough for his family to live on, perhaps it is not very large. You will find there in our system of graded schools, our normal schools, our churches,

and in our charitable institutions the evidences of where our surplus wealth has been invested, and you will find that intelligence and patriotism have resulted from that method of expenditure. We have not enough left to properly memorialize this great event. There is not an institution in which our civilization to-day finds its best inspiration that does not flourish there.

Now, we appeal to Congress because we are poor in that sense. We have a great Catholic summer school located within a mile of this place. We have across the lake in the city of Burlington the University of Vermont, one of the best institutions of learning in this country, so that within a brief circle of this spot more young minds are being formed and more characters are being formed than in any other similar circle in the United States.

It is a very striking and singular thing—of course, this does not relate to the centenary commission—that when I go to New York, Washington, or elsewhere, this battle and all it meant, the sentiment attached to it, and its lessons, which are interwoven with the very lives of the young men and young women of that valley, outside are practically unknown. It is to correct that, among other things, and to place there for all time to come a monument that will not only perpetuate the past but will point out the way in the future that we appeal to Congress to extend to us a helping hand to enable us to carry out that object. It is pretty hard to explain when you endeavor to tell the youth of our country up there of the lessons to be learned from those times, when they say, "Why is it that it has not been commemorated? Why is it that it has been neglected?" Of course, our answer would be, "We lack the wealth to supply what ought to be supplied to erect a fitting and proper memorial."

And, Mr. Chairman, that is why we are here. I regret I had to take so much of your time, but I wanted to give you a little local color and some of the motives that prompted me to come here and address you on this subject. We also realize the fact that to Vermont, too, is due credit for what took place at that time, and she should receive credit with us in whatever assistance Congress may give us.

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK L. GREENE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT.

MR. GREENE. Mr. Chairman, I do not appear here as a member of the Vermont commission, but as one who is very happily connected with it, because its interests are mine, too. I dare say that having had such a splendid exposition of the historical importance and the sentimental associations which commend this enterprise to Congress, it may be proper to perhaps suggest one other phase of it that, while it has no strong weight as an argumentative proposition, nevertheless it is to my mind very closely associated with this very peculiar historical event which we seek to celebrate. I think, although I have never seen the idea brought out upon some substantial authority, you are going to agree with me, after listening to the eloquent detail of the battle by Mr. Stetson, that it was perhaps the most unique battle in some respects in the history of the country, because, in the first place, it was a combination of land and naval forces, on the one hand,

which is an unusual combination to fight a battle anywhere. In the second place, it is unique because it was the opposition of an unorganized and untrained democracy against the trained troops, seamen and landsmen, of Europe, and the untrained men won the victory. That was what we may call in our offhand way a neighborhood battle between the people of Vermont and New York on the one hand and the British regulars on the other. Our fathers and grandfathers went into that battle, leaving aside the ax, scythe, and plow, and went over to fight a neighborhood fight, and after the fight was over they came back to the farms and again took up the ax, the scythe, and the plow. That is one of the reasons why it has never received the distinction in history that it would have had if it had been a meeting of distinguished organized forces on both sides. It was simply treated by our people as an obedience of the first law of nature, and they left the peaceful occupations that they were hoping to continue and went off to fight, and then came right back again and never celebrated their own victory and their own glory.

From time immemorial—at least as far as we regard it in this country—that grand old Lake Champlain, true to its name, had been the gateway to this country, and those men of 1814 were simply doing what their ancestors had been doing every now and then during the bloody days in the history of the wilderness from the time when the white man first taught the Iroquois the sound of gunpowder, and the sound of gunpowder has been echoing down through all the years since then in the history of that section of the country. I want to suggest that in so far as the State of Vermont is concerned in this matter, she recognizes with great respect and great pride that the celebration is destined to be in every respect a New York State affair, so far as its broad outlines are concerned. We only suggest that in as much as we furnished the shipyard, and our men built the ships, manned the vessels, and joined with the land forces in great numbers, that we are not immodest in asking Congress to officially recognize the fact that our little Green Mountain State had a finger in it too. And that being conceded, of course, it must follow that in order to enable us to carry on our part of this celebration, which we design to have on the site of that old shipyard and that old arsenal where the powder was manufactured and the shot was cast, we should have from Congress a modest sum for that purpose.

The CHAIRMAN. What amount has the State of Vermont appropriated?

Mr. GREENE. I may say by way of explanation that the State of Vermont did not originally consider this as a national celebration. At first we intended merely to have a little celebration in the city of Vergennes, to erect a tablet memorial, and the legislature appropriated \$4,000 for that purpose. After our legislature was through and had gone away, the idea occurred to us that with the aid of our great neighbor we might have a national celebration, wherefore our people regretted that they had only planned a little celebration. Learning, too, that our friends were disposed to give us a share in the program, we now feel that we may supplement what we have already raised. The city of Vergennes has contributed \$1,000 to add to the State's \$4,000, and we are asking Congress now to allow us to partici-

pate with New York, perhaps by an amendment to this bill to give us \$15,000. The New York commission is quite willing that we should have that allotment of the sum.

The CHAIRMAN. We are very much obliged to you, sir.

STATEMENT OF REV. JOHN P. CHIDWICK, D. D., YONKERS, N. Y.

Dr. CHIDWICK. Mr. Chairman, there is a phase of the matter that has not been brought up as yet. I think we all recognize at the present time that there is a general disposition to do away with the memories of war and, so far as it is possible, to do away with war itself, and it is possible that just such a sentiment will interfere with a celebration of this character.

While, of course, it may be unfitting for me, as a clergyman, to advocate anything in any way outside of that spirit, which seems to be so widely prevalent, still, I believe that when God gives us a country to protect we are unworthy of that country if we do not protect it, and the battle which we wish to memorialize was a decisive battle in a war for the protection of our country and to make it a free and independent country, such as all the nations of the world came to recognize it after the War of 1812. I think, down to the War of 1812, England looked upon us as a wayward child that needed a spanking to bring it home. It was the War of 1812 that decided our position and gave us our standing in the world. The war was brought about because we were forced to defend our rights and to teach our children the lesson that while we deprecate war and while we are thoroughly in sympathy with the spirit of the times which counsels the doing away of the useless slaughtering of human life, still, if God has given us a country to protect, we are unworthy of that country if we do not protect it. The War of 1812 was such a war for our protection.

Now, there is another phase of the matter. I remember during our Spanish-American War the kindness that was shown by our officers to the Spanish officers who were taken prisoners. We had the first prisoner of the war and he was brought on board our ship. We took him at Matanzas. He sat at our table and we talked with him about the war and treated him most courteously. He was very much surprised; he did not know what had happened. He was anxious to see his wife and child. He had been on furlough to see his family and had not heard of the war, and we took him on board ship and held him as a prisoner, much to his surprise. Afterwards we sent him to Admiral Sampson and the admiral sent him ashore with a flag of truce.

That was a beautiful sight. It was also a striking thing at Santiago when Admiral Phillips said to the sailors, "Don't cheer, boys; those poor fellows are dying." These are all sentiments in the history of our modern wars. But there is not a more beautiful sentiment—teaching us to govern our passions, our resentment, and our anger and to look upon all those with whom we are at war with pity—than the sentiment of Macdonough, who, the previous day, had prayed to God for victory and after the battle sent word to Washington that "In the providence of God, the victory has fallen to us to-day," and then the next day he gathered the dead of the English and American Armies and laid them together to rest on the hillside in token of

the peace that he wished to exist between the two great peoples of the world.

To-day we are, of course, wishing that all English-speaking peoples should be united: that is the wish on this side and on the other side. And where can we put a monument that will speak more eloquently that sentiment than on the spot where Macdonough, in his moment of victory, gathered together those whom he had fought and placed them side by side with his own men on the hillside? I believe that the people of Plattsburg, every Decoration Day, have gone out and decorated those graves.

Why should this sentiment in any way act against the proposed celebration? Why should the sentiment of doing away with all things and memorials of war contradict this sentiment: That here, if every volume of the records of the war tragedies of the world is closed, is the concluding chapter, the last and most glorious chapter, where people who fought, and fought like tigers, during the moment of conflict, still were so Christianlike and so brotherlike that after the battle they were gathered together and laid to rest and honored by both peoples year after year on their Memorial Days.

So, Mr. Chairman, I hope that this sentiment which might perhaps militate against this movement might not be permitted to do so, and I do sincerely hope that the movement will take on that national character, because while we love peace and deprecate war we must insist upon our people remembering this: That hateful as war may be, there are some circumstances when it is perhaps necessary; that the robber, the thief, the invader, the unjust man must not triumph; that justice must triumph, right must triumph, God must triumph, principle must triumph, and for us not to protect and defend what is right and what is God-given renders us unworthy to be called Americans and Christians.

And, Mr. Chairman, it is to perpetuate that sentiment that we ask for this contribution from our National Treasury to aid us in this celebration.

The CHAIRMAN. I regret very much that my colleagues on the committee were unable to be present and hear the statements that have been made, but the hearing has been taken down, and the other members of the committee will read it.

(Mr. W. E. Parkhurst, of Plattsburgh, N. Y., presented a petition signed by numerous residents of the city of Plattsburgh and vicinity, respectfully urging the making of a suitable appropriation for the celebration and a permanent memorial to commemorate the victory of Macdonough and Macomb at the Battle of Plattsburgh on September 11, 1814.

Mr. Howard D. Hadley, of Plattsburgh, N. Y., appeared on behalf of the Trades and Labor Assembly of Plattsburgh, N. Y., and presented the following letters:)

TRADES AND LABOR ASSEMBLY.
Plattsburgh, N. Y., March 9, 1914.

MR. HOWARD D. HADLEY,

% Senator O'Gorman, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. HADLEY: In response to your letter of the 7th instant, addressed to Mr. Edward Werner, president of our Trade and Labor Assembly, we beg to assure you that the project of the centenary celebration here next September meets with the hearty approval of our organization without dissent of any

kind. The great importance of the event historically, and the expectation of the vast crowds of representative people it will bring here, tend to make it one of the greatest celebrations in the history of this great Nation. As we are unable conveniently to send a delegate in person to represent us at this meeting on Thursday if you see fit we wish to authorize you to speak for us there at such meeting, with this letter as authority for such course. With sincere good wishes from our whole organization for the best success of this undertaking, we remain,

Yours, truly,

EDWARD W. WERNER,
President of Committee.
B. S. MORRILL,
Secretary of Committee.

CADYVILLE, CLINTON COUNTY, N. Y., March 9, 1914.

MR. H. D. HADLEY,
Assistant Secretary Plattsburgh Centenary Commission,
Plattsburgh, N. Y.

MY DEAR MR. HADLEY: Yours of the 7th instant is at hand.

I am sorry we did not know of the hearing at Washington at the time of our Pomona meeting last Thursday. We would have liked to have sent a representative. But it is impossible on such short notice.

However, I depute you to represent the Pomona Grange, of Clinton County, N. Y., at the hearing. I will stand behind you and support you as we are all deeply interested in this movement to bring about fitting recognition of the Battle of Plattsburgh, one of the real decisive battles of our history.

Yours, very respectfully,

W. S. WHITE,
Master Pomona Grange, of Clinton County, N. Y.

PLATTSBURGH, N. Y., March 10, 1914.

HOWARD D. HADLEY,
Hotel Willard, Washington, D. C.:

The Women's Civic League wish to acknowledge your letter and say that we deeply regret not being able to send a representative to the meeting Thursday. We wish you the best success and will do everything in our power to further the interests of the celebration.

MARIE P. BOOTH,
President Plattsburgh Women's Civic League, Plattsburgh, N. Y.

LETTERS TO SENATOR ELIHU ROOT.

The CHAIRMAN. The following letters addressed to Senator Elihu Root will be incorporated in the report of the hearings:

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, STATE OF NEW YORK,
Albany, March 10, 1914.

HON. ELIHU ROOT,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR: Even in these days, when in the State of New York we are striving at economy, all seem to be agreed that a bill should be passed in the legislature this year, and approved by the governor, appropriating \$125,000 toward the Plattsburgh Centenary Celebration. This must be done, if at all, this year, as the hundredth anniversary is to be celebrated on September 11. New York State is more interested than any other, but it is of course a national proposition as well, and we are making our appropriation at this time feeling that the Federal Government will do its share, just as it did with reference to the Perry celebration.

I have been requested to write you by Mr. Howard D. Hadley, assistant secretary of the Plattsburgh Centenary Commission, urging you to do what you can to provide a Federal appropriation.

With kind regards, I am, very sincerely, yours,

HAROLD J. HINMAN.

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, STATE OF NEW YORK.

Albany, March 9, 1914.

Hon. ELIHU ROOT,
Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: The State of New York proposes to appropriate \$125,000 for the celebration of a permanent memorial commemorating the Battle of Plattsburgh.

In company with Chairman Francis Lynde Stetson and Assistant Secretary Hadley, of the Plattsburgh Centenary Commission, I saw Gov. Glynn this morning, and he has agreed to sign the bill. The bill is now in the senate finance committee, and Senator Frawley has agreed to report it out at once. It will be passed promptly by the senate. Speaker Sweet, Majority Leader Hinman, and Minority Leader Smith are all heartily in favor of the bill, and there is not the slightest doubt but what it will become a law within a few days.

New York State hopes and expects that Congress will do as well for its memorial commemorating Macdonough's victory as was done for Perry's victory.

With high respect, I remain, very truly, yours,

A. MACDONALD.

Chairman Committee on Ways and Means.

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

Albany, March 10, 1914.

Hon. ELIHU ROOT,
Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: The legislature of this State is now putting through a bill appropriating \$125,000 for a celebration and permanent memorial commemorating the Battle of Plattsburgh.

The bill has been introduced in the senate by Senator Foley and is now in the senate finance committee, and Senator Frawley has agreed to report it out at once. It will be passed promptly by the senate. Gov. Glynn has agreed to sign the bill. Speaker Sweet, Majority Leader Hinman, and Minority Leader Smith are all heartily in favor of the bill and there is not the slightest doubt that it will become a law within a few days.

We hope and expect that Congress will appropriate the same amount for the memorial commemorating Macdonough's victory as was done for Perry's victory, viz, \$250,000.

With warmest personal regards, I remain, very truly, yours.

JAMES A. EMERSON.

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, STATE OF NEW YORK.

Albany, March 9, 1914.

Hon. ELIHU ROOT,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: I beg to address you at this time in the interest of a bill pending in Congress known as Senate bill No. 3662. Our State is about to appropriate, for the celebration of the centenary of the Battle of Plattsburgh, \$125,000. I am reliably informed that the governor is favorably committed to this bill, and it is exceedingly necessary that Congress take prompt action on the measure providing Federal assistance in this celebration that the plans and specifications may be made at the earliest date possible that the undertaking may prove a success.

May I ask for your support and the best efforts for an early and favorable consideration on this measure, and remain,

Yours, very respectfully,

T. C. SWELT.

LETTERS TO SENATOR JAMES A. O'GORMAN.

The CHAIRMAN. The following letters addressed to Senator O'Gorman will be printed in the record:

STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

Albany, March 10, 1914.

Hon. JAMES A. O'GORMAN,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR O'GORMAN: I take pleasure in herewith introducing to you Mr. Howard D. Hadley, secretary of the Plattsburgh Centenary Commission,

the members of which desire an appropriation of \$250,000 from Congress for the Plattsburgh celebration and permanent memorial.

Historians generally agree that the Battle of Plattsburgh was the greatest naval battle of the war, and that by his victory Macdonough stamped himself as one of the greatest sea captains which our country has produced.

I hope that Congress will see its way clear to enact a law making this appropriation, and I beg to add my assurances that so far as the matter is in my power, New York State will also add a substantial appropriation.

Very sincerely, yours,

MARTIN H. GLYNN.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S ROOM,
Albany, February 9, 1914.

HON. JAMES A. O'GORMAN,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: I am taking the liberty at this time of asking you to use your good offices to secure favorable action on the bill which you have introduced in the United States Senate appropriating \$250,000 for the establishment of a proper memorial to Thomas Macdonough at Plattsburg, N. Y. Senator Foley, chairman of the New York State Plattsburg Centenary Commission, has introduced a bill in the legislature calling for an appropriation of \$150,000 in order that New York State may participate with the Federal Government in the erection of a suitable memorial to this man and the men who fought so gallantly under him on this historical occasion.

Practically every historic spot in the country has received recognition in this manner by the various States or Nation, and I firmly believe that the people of this State and the Nation owe this small tribute to these men who had so much to do with making this country what it is to-day.

With the hope that you will do everything possible to secure favorable consideration of this measure, I am,

Very sincerely, yours,

ROBERT MAGNER.

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
Albany, March 10, 1914.

HON. JAMES A. O'GORMAN,
United States Senator, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: I hope you will be able to secure the speedy passage of the bill introduced by you providing for a memorial to Thomas Macdonough.

The authorities in our State have all agreed to an appropriation of \$125,000, and the Government's participation should be proportionate.

Very truly, yours,

JAMES A. FOLEY.

(Thereupon the committee adjourned.)



